

# Bain Explains Vagnozzi Warrant

FARMINGTON On two occasions, Bain states, attempts to secure warrants were halted when officials involved in their issuance insisted on interviewing Mrs. Kenney.

Here is the sequence of events as described by Bain, a former assistant Oakland County prosecutor and now a city attorney in Southfield.

On Friday, July 16, Mrs. Kenney had set up a table at the Farmington-12 Mile Road shopping center, hoping to secure signatures on recall petitions. Vagnozzi happened by on his way to the center's grocery store.

Vagnozzi, hearing Mrs. Kenney giving what he thought was misleading information, remained for about 45 minutes introducing himself to those stopping at the table and offering to answer any questions they might have.

The situation was amicable.

Bain said Vagnozzi told him. After a time, Mrs. Kenney remarked that her family was going away for the weekend and she was closing up her stand and going home.

Vagnozzi offered to help fold up her table and load it in her car, and did so. They parted cordially.

The following Tuesday, Vagnozzi received a call from Officer Dale Hall of the Farmington Township Police informing him that Mrs. Kenney had come in that day and made a complaint of assault against Vagnozzi. The officer wanted a formal statement from Vagnozzi.

The following day, Wednesday, Vagnozzi and Bain went to the police station where Vagnozzi wrote and signed a statement that he had not intentionally touched Mrs. Kenney although he might have inadvertently brushed

against her while helping fold up and load her table in her car.

Mrs. Kenney alleged that Vagnozzi had grabbed her by the arm, bruising it and restrained or attempted to restrain her from circulating the recall petitions, Bain said.

Bain said he told Officer Hall that his client was willing to take a polygraph (lie detector) test and suggested that Mrs. Kenney be asked to take one, too.

"I can't imagine why that hasn't been done," Bain said.

"I've never had a situation before where an attorney who said he would like a polygraph test in a serious matter like this was ever refused."

The next communication, said Bain, was a call to him from John Agnew of the Oakland County prosecutor's office. Agnew said he had told

Sgt. George Maier of the township police that he viewed the matter as one better handled by local authorities under local ordinances.

However, he told Maier: "Have the woman come in and I'll talk to her and the man." Agnew said Mrs. Kenney did not appear and he heard nothing more of the case.

ON FRIDAY, July 30, Bain said Lt. Russell Conway of the township police called Vagnozzi and told him a warrant had been issued and he should come in for arraignment that day or the following day, a Saturday.

Vagnozzi protested his attorney was not of town. Vagnozzi then contacted Bain's law partner who arranged for Vagnozzi to come to court the following Monday. When they appeared,

Bain said, he found that the warrant Conway carried had not been signed.

Meanwhile, Farmington District Judge Michael Hand had departed to fill in on Detroit Recorder's Court and the district court was being served by visiting judges.

On Aug. 4, Judge Martin Boyle of Milford was taking Hand's place in Farmington. A warrant for Vagnozzi was among other papers given him for signature.

Bain said that when Judge Boyle noticed the complaint was "two or three weeks old," he told the court clerk he wanted to interview Mrs. Kenney and see the police record before signing a warrant. The clerk took the warrant away and later, Bain said, left the judge with the "distinct impression" that the complaint was being dropped.

Five days later, Bain said, when Judge Elmer Hartwig of Royal Oak was sitting as visiting judge in the City of Farmington, the warrant was taken to him and he signed it.

Paul Bibau, who assists the township attorney and who made the decision to seek the warrant, said he talked with Mrs. Kenney and reviewed the police report but did not interview Vagnozzi.

After Vagnozzi stood mute to the charge, he was freed on \$100 personal bond. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail, \$100 fine or both.

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John Clappison



Bill Conroy

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Sun. Sept. 12 6:30 p.m. Guys & Dolls  
Sept. 12 9:00 p.m. Sunday Alternates (Mixed)  
Mon. Sept. 13 10:00 a.m. Suburbanites - Ladies  
Sept. 13 9:30 p.m. Monday Mixers  
Tues. Sept. 14 12:30 p.m. Bowling Belles - Ladies  
Wed. Sept. 15 1:00 p.m. Salad Bowlers - Ladies  
Sept. 8 9:30 p.m. Bel-Aire Woman's  
Thurs. Sept. 16 9:45 a.m. Early Birds  
Sept. 9 9:30 p.m. Thurs. Mixed His & Hers  
Fri. Sept. 17 11:00 a.m. Men's Industrial  
Sat. Sept. 18 7:00 p.m. Saturday Alternates - Mixed  
YOUTH LEAGUES BEGIN SAT., SEPT. 18th.

## Another Letter About Millage

EDITOR: I would like to express my support for the millage campaign under way in Farmington for an added 3.5 mills for one year.

Why is this millage needed?

First, there has been a great reduction in state and county aid, of about \$187,000 or one-half mill. Second, there has been an increase in enrollment since 1967 (the last millage) of 1,146 students. At a rate of \$900 per student, the cost is \$1,031,400 or three mills.

Third, last year the State Supreme Court ruled that local districts must pay for all supplies. As a result, the total cost for instructional supplies (books, paper, etc.) is \$800,000 or 2 1/2 mills.

And finally, as we all know, inflation has galloped at a rapid rate. If we decide that it has increased by 16 per cent since 1967 (four per cent per year), it is equal to six mills. The total amount of millage needed to combat the above is 12 mills.

ALL THE board is proposing is 3.5 mills for one year. Not 12 mills as they have a right to, but 3.5 mills - enough to cover the Supreme Court decision and a rate of inflation of 2 1/2 per cent per year.

The board has already cut needed counselors, teachers, sports programs and supplies.

They have delayed needed repairs and are cutting everywhere - even when it cannot be done.

These are not threats, as in the past, but these cuts have been made, and more will be in the future. And remember, two years ago your taxes were cut by one mill.

But this request is for one year, and with the proposed constitutional amendment to end school property taxes, it looks as if at the end of the year the proposal will not come back to haunt anyone. And even with this increase, on the average it will be over \$325 cheaper to go to public school for a family than (say) Sorrows and Mercy, and taxes here are lowest in the area.

I call upon the voters of this district to vote "yes" on the millage Monday.

And finally, as we all know, inflation has galloped at a rapid rate. If we decide that it has increased by 16 per cent since 1967 (four per cent per year), it is equal to six mills. The total amount of millage needed to combat the above is 12 mills.

## LWV Urges Millage 'Yes' Vote

FARMINGTON Mrs. Richard Gould, president of the League of Women Voters of West Bloomfield - Farmington area urges each resident of Farmington public schools to vote "yes" on the millage proposal Monday, Aug. 23.

The league takes this stand, she explains, because it has studied Farmington schools for two years and has a support position on quality education.

Voting "yes" on this one-year millage buys time as well as continuing quality education for Farmington students, she adds.

"The leagues all over the state, as well as other groups, are urging legislators to find a more equitable way of financing education during the next legislative year," she concluded.

## the farmington enterprise Observer

EMORY DANIELS, Editor

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